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Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 June 2001 from the representatives of Croatia and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith the joint statement on the talks between the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Vojislav Kostunica, and the President of the Republic of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic, held during the meeting of the Forum of Presidents of Central European States in Verbania, Italy, on 8 June 2001 (see annex).

We would kindly ask your assistance in having this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 80 of the provisional list, as well as of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jelena Grcic **Polic**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dejan **Šahović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2001 from the representatives of Croatia and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement on the talks between the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the President of the Republic of Croatia

We, the Presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, Vojislav Kostunica and Stjepan Mesic respectively, met in Verbania during the meeting of the Forum of Presidents of Central European States.

In open talks, we discussed the actual state of affairs of relations between the two countries, as well as the situation in the broader region. In doing so, we proceeded not only from the interest of both countries, but also from the importance of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia in the context of building and consolidating stability in south-eastern Europe.

Expressing our satisfaction with these talks, announcing our readiness to continue to maintain periodic contacts with a view to giving a fresh impetus to the stabilization of the region and reaffirming our commitment in principle to the policy of peace and the resolution of all outstanding questions through negotiations, we decided to declare that:

1. We acknowledge that the relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia should be built with a view to achieving full normalization and should be expanded in all areas of mutual interest;

2. We acknowledge that in the further normalization of our bilateral relations special emphasis should be placed on facilitating the free movement of persons, commodities and ideas, in accordance with the standards of a Europe undergoing integration;

3. We acknowledge that in the context of the normalization and building of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia the implementation of bilateral agreements already signed should be continued and measures should be undertaken to ensure the equal protection of minorities in both countries, i.e. the Serbian minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

4. We acknowledge that all obstacles to the process of the return of refugees and expelled persons should be removed, as well as that maximum efforts should be made so that all persons missing in action (MIAs) are urgently and fully accounted for;

5. We acknowledge that both countries and their citizens may have to face the full truth in the best possible way on the events of the past decade, by strictly adhering to the principle of personal responsibility and accountability, thereby preventing any attempt at assigning collective responsibility, i.e. the accountability of any people;

6. We acknowledge that a stable and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina, built on the basis of the Dayton Agreement, is in the lasting interest not only of our two countries, but also of the region as a whole, and reaffirm that the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia have no claims against any part of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Stjepan **Mesic**
President of the Republic of Croatia

Vojsilav **Kostunica**
President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

This statement is made in two copies in Serbian and Croatian, both of which are equally authentic.

Verbania, 8 June 2001